

UNIT 1

Sentence Structure

Preview



There were two groups of pterosaurs, or flying reptiles. The early pterosaurs, which went extinct at the end of the Jurassic Period, came first. The second group, descendants of the first, developed in the late Jurassic. **It** is believed that this group included the largest flying reptiles ever. The largest pterosaur was *Quetzalcoatlus*. **It** is thought that *Quetzalcoatlus* weighed up to 100 kilograms. Its neck was extremely long, and it had no teeth. **There** are still questions about how this amazing animal lived. It is thought to have soared high in the sky, covering great distances. This ability, along with its long neck, has prompted the idea that it survived in a similar way to the vulture, feeding on the corpses of dead dinosaurs. However, because of its long slender jaws, **it** has also been suggested that *Quetzalcoatlus* searched tidal pools and shores for shellfish and other sea animals. **It** has also been suggested that it flew low over warm shallow seas, plucking fish from the water.

Part A

Preparatory *It and There*

Grammar Explanation

Preparatory *It and There*

The preparatory **it** is used to show an opinion or condition (especially concerning time, distance, and weather). The preparatory **it** acts as an “empty” subject and is usually followed by the verb **be** (or a modal + **be**). The logical subject in sentences beginning with **it** is often a **to**-infinitive phrase or a noun clause.

It is nice to meet you.
It would be fun to live on a sailboat.
It is important that we not litter in the park.

It is 3:30 p.m. right now.
It never snows in July around here.
It is believed that he will arrive next week.

The preparatory **there** often begins sentences that show location or existence, especially when the existence of something or someone is mentioned for the first time. It is usually followed by the verb **be** (or a modal + **be**).

Look! **There's** a bear.
There's a shooting star in the sky.

There will be a party on Saturday.
There is a mosquito in my bedroom.
There was a new girl at school today.

Practice 1

Exercise 1 Circle the correct answers.

1. (There / **It**) was sunny yesterday.
2. (There / It) is 800 kilometers to Toronto.
3. Oh, (there / it) is Diego. I couldn't see him before.
4. (There / It) is unlikely that he will be at the party.
5. (There / It) is now five o'clock on a Sunday afternoon.
6. Before you go, (there / it) is something I should tell you.
7. Do you know if (there / it) is a gas station on this street?
8. Do you know if (there / it) is possible for me to see a doctor?

Exercise 2 Complete the sentences with *it* or *there*.

1. Can you tell me what time _____ *it* _____ is?
2. No, _____ isn't any milk in the fridge.
3. Go check and see if _____ is any cake left.
4. _____ will be two hours before we get there.
5. I think _____ are three men in the car behind us.
6. _____ is a man at the door who wants to talk to you.
7. Come and look! _____ is an Asian elephant on television.
8. _____ will be cold with a chance of a thunderstorm tomorrow.

Practice 2

Exercise 1 Fill in the blanks with *it* or *there* and the correct forms of the verb *be*.

My favorite time of the year in Sydney is the summer. Right now,
1 *it is* December, and 2 _____ greenery everywhere.
3 _____ hot enough to wear shorts all the time; 4 _____
usually between 17 and 25 degrees Celsius. Downtown, 5 _____
hundreds of tourists, especially around the historic part of Sydney. One
of the most famous sights in Sydney is the Opera House. 6 _____
essential that all tourists go there. From the Opera House, 7 _____
a lovely view of the sea, and 8 _____ interesting boats and ships
passing all day long.

Exercise 2 Look at the pictures and answer the questions using sentences beginning with *it* or *there*.



1. How far is it to Peru? → _____
2. What is in this picture? → _____
3. Where can I get some aspirin? → _____
4. Why would most bank robbers not rob this bank right now?
→ _____

Grammar in Use

Exercise 1 Read the passage about extinctions. Underline all the uses of the preparatory *it* and the preparatory *there*.

There have been large extinctions throughout earth's history. The most famous of these caused the end of the dinosaurs about 65 million years ago. At that time, about seventy percent of all the species on earth died out. Although dinosaurs had been in a period of decline before the extinction, it is thought that they could have recovered if something terrible had not prevented it. The most accepted theory about the cause of this extinction is the asteroid theory. It is believed that an asteroid about 10 kilometers in diameter hit earth. It is suggested that the asteroid destroyed everything within about 500 kilometers of where it landed. It would also have caused fires, increased volcanic activity, and sent huge clouds of dust, gases, and water vapor into the atmosphere. Because of this, there would have been months of darkness, cooler temperatures, and acid rain. There is a huge crater off the northwest tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The crater has been dated as 65 million years old and is believed to be evidence of a large asteroid impact.

**Exercise 2** Answer the questions about the above reading.

1. What happened to earth about 65 million years ago?

→ _____

2. What is believed about the size of the asteroid?

→ _____

3. What is this event believed to have caused?

→ _____

4. What evidence is there to support this belief?

→ _____

Part B

Phrases and Clauses

Preview

One of the world's most famous folk dances is the *Ka mate Haka* performed **by the Maori**. The Maori are the indigenous inhabitants **of New Zealand**. The dance has been made famous **by the New Zealand rugby team**, the All Blacks, who use it before their matches **to make opponents nervous**. The *haka* dates back to the early 19th century. **Created by a Maori chief**, Te Rauparaha, it recounts the tale of the chief's pursuit and escape **from members of opposing tribes**, his fear **of being captured**, and his joy **at regaining his freedom**. In the famous incident that inspired the creation **of the *Ka mate Haka***, Te Rauparaha had been visiting a neighboring tribe. Certain members **of that tribe** wanted to kill Te Rauparaha **for raiding one of their villages years before**. **To protect him**, other members **of the tribe** hid Te Rauparaha **in a sweet potato pit**.



Grammar Explanation

Phrases and Clauses

Phrases are groups of related words. They differ from clauses in that they do not contain both a subject and a tensed verb.

Prepositional phrases have a preposition and an object of the preposition.

There was a delicious smell coming **from the kitchen**.
The dog barked **at the stranger**.

Gerund phrases have a gerund and can function the same way as a noun. They often appear as the object of a preposition.

Thank you for **coming to my house**.
Walking alone late at night is dangerous.

Infinitive phrases have an infinitive and can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Lisa is going to university **to study economics**.
He was looking for a way **to become popular**.
To see the Eiffel Tower is a dream of mine.

Participial phrases have a participle and function as an adjective. They are set off from the rest of the sentence by commas.

Having seen the play three times, she didn't want to see it again.
Janice, **not used to ice skates**, fell down and hurt her knee.

Clauses are groups of related words that include both a subject and a tensed verb.

Independent clauses can stand alone as a sentence. Two independent clauses are often connected with a coordinating conjunction.

Maria is afraid of animals, so **she doesn't go near them**.
We are going swimming, but **they are going shopping**.

Dependent clauses cannot stand alone as a sentence. They need an independent clause to form a complete sentence. When a dependent clause begins a sentence, a comma is used to separate it from the independent clause.

We are going swimming since **it is so hot outside**.
Since **it is so hot outside**, we are going swimming.

Practice 1

Exercise 1 Follow the directions for each group of sentences.

Underline the prepositional phrase and circle the preposition.

- The UFO appeared above the town before it disappeared.
- I can hear my dad snoring loudly in his upstairs bedroom.

Underline the participial phrase and circle the participle.

- We stopped to look at a deer that was ten meters away, drinking from a stream.
- Having been chosen for the mission, the astronaut began a strict training program.

Underline the gerund phrase and circle the gerund.

- Driving without lights at night is dangerous.
- The actor was excited about scrambling over burning debris for his role in the action film.

Underline the infinitive phrase and circle the infinitive.

- The committee plans to release its report on Saturday.
- It is hard not to buy into the hype around brand names when you can't go anywhere without seeing them.

Exercise 2 Identify the underlined phrases in the sentences as prepositional (*Pr*), gerund (*G*), infinitive (*I*), or participial (*Pa*).

- Pr John walked down the ramp to the beach.
- _____ Most people oppose marketing cigarettes to children.
- _____ We need to find a way to provide more money for charity.
- _____ The chest of gold was in an old castle, hidden under the stones in the old fireplace.
- _____ The school council is considering increasing the hours of the library and computer lab.
- _____ Cigarette companies continue to fight to prevent the government from regulating tobacco.

Practice 2

Exercise 1 Complete the sentences. Choose the clauses to match the given types.

1. *Independent*

The doctor was worried

- a. that Tom was gaining too much weight.
- b. about Tom putting on weight.
- c. , so he told Tom to start exercising.

2. *Independent*

Lily is going to run in the race

- a. unless her parents tell her she can't.
- b. , so she should get lots of sleep.
- c. because she wants to win.

3. *Dependent*

The school choir is touring Brazil

- a. even though Jim's mother objected to it.
- b. ; indeed, they will be gone for an entire month.
- c. , and they will probably take a side-trip to visit Uruguay.

4. *Dependent*

Confused, Anne decided to meet with her teacher

- a. she was able to figure it out herself.
- b. she struggled with the material on her own for an hour.
- c. since she was having trouble with the assignment.

Exercise 2 Complete the sentences with the types of phrases or clauses indicated. Use your own ideas.

1. *Dependent clause*

I like flowers _____.

2. *Prepositional phrase*

Nick is building the table _____.

3. *Participial phrase*

_____, Mark went to bed early.

4. *Infinitive phrase*

It takes a long time _____.

Grammar in Use**Exercise 1** Read the passage about sword dancing.

Notes about the Sword Dance

- The most famous sword dance is the Scottish sword dance.
- Developed from the armed dance of the ancient Greek city-state of Sparta, the Scottish dance remains a battle dance.
- An important king in Scottish history, Malcolm III is reported to have performed a victorious sword dance in 1058 after killing Macbeth, who had murdered Malcolm's father, King Duncan I.
- Also according to legend, sword dances were performed before battle, and touching swords while dancing was considered bad luck for the coming battle.

**Exercise 2** Write questions about the above reading based on the given answers.

1. Q: _____

A: The Spartan armed dance

2. Q: _____

A: Malcolm III

3. Q: _____

A: Before battle

4. Q: _____

A: Because it was bad luck

Part C

Sentence Types

Preview

Stonehenge FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)



1. What is Stonehenge?

Stonehenge is a prehistoric construction located in southern England, consisting of two concentric circles of large standing stones. It was built between 3100 and 1500 BCE. No one knows for sure what it was used for.

2. Who built Stonehenge?

Three different cultures contributed to the construction of Stonehenge. These cultures were the Windmill, the First Wessex, and the Beakers.

3. Where are the Bluestones, and why are they called Bluestones?

The Bluestones, which are called this because they turn blue when they get wet, are found in the inner of the two concentric circles of stone.

4. Is Stonehenge the world's largest stone circle?

Stonehenge is not the largest stone circle in the world, but it is the only one in which the lintels (the stones placed horizontally on the vertical stones) remain in place.

5. Why was it built where it is?

Nobody knows.

6. Why can't visitors enter the circle?

In order to protect the site, people aren't allowed within the stone circles. Over the last few centuries, many of the original stones have been taken or chipped away by visitors as souvenirs, so the management is careful to keep people away.

Grammar Explanation

Sentence Types

Simple sentences have just one independent clause.

We celebrated Grandpa's 80th birthday yesterday.

Amy loves peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Compound sentences have more than one independent clause.

He finished all of his homework, but he forgot to bring it to school.

Sue was late for swimming practice, and she left her goggles at home.

Complex sentences have one independent and one dependent clause.

Although he sprained his ankle, he finished the race.

She didn't eat because she wasn't hungry.

Compound-complex sentences have more than one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

Before the plane took off, Sarah called her dad to say good-bye, but he didn't answer the phone.

I like this class even though it is held early in the morning; it's very interesting.

Practice 1

Exercise 1 Match the sentence parts. Then identify the types of sentences.

TYPE OF SENTENCE		CONNECTS WITH
1. <u>compound</u>	Montreal has better clubs,	<u>d</u>
2. _____	How can you possibly believe	_____
3. _____	Because I forgot to pay my bills,	_____
4. _____	My aunt, who visited at Christmas,	_____
5. _____	Since it lies exposed without its blanket of snow,	_____
6. _____	Mark prefers working alone, but Claire likes brainstorming	_____

- a. the ice on the river melts quickly in the spring.
 b. the bank sent me a letter, and the power company called to remind me.
 c. that the world is flat?
 d. but Toronto has better cinemas.
 e. just moved to New Zealand.
 f. with others because a group can solve a problem more efficiently.

Exercise 2 Combine the simple sentences into compound sentences.

1. She didn't lock the car. I can get the cooler.

→ _____

2. Jenny went to the mall. Allen went with her.

→ _____

3. You can trust John. Don't tell Sarah about it.

→ _____

4. We could go to a movie. We could rent a DVD.

→ _____

Practice 2

Exercise 1 Using the given words, combine the simple sentences into complex sentences.

1. Frederick ordered two hamburgers. He is very hungry. (as)
→ Frederick ordered two hamburgers as he is very hungry.
2. I'm going to the party. If Peter comes before I leave, I won't go. (unless)
→ _____
3. Don't forget to put on some sunscreen. It is really sunny out today. (because)
→ _____
4. Jane can't sleep. She can sleep only after her son arrives home safely. (until)
→ _____
5. Adam is having trouble with his math homework. He is usually amazing at math. (even though)
→ _____
6. There will be many attempts to prevent it. There will be a war over ownership of the moon. (although)
→ _____

Exercise 2 Combine the groups of sentences to form compound-complex sentences.

1. I just met John. I trust him completely. I lent him my car.
→ _____
2. Ginny enjoys karaoke. She sings like a pop star. She has never had singing lessons.
→ _____
3. Mark lent me a book. It is a rare illustrated version. He wants me to take good care of it.
→ _____
4. The front tire is flat. Sarah's mother drove over a nail. She doesn't want to pay to get it fixed.
→ _____

Grammar in Use

Exercise 1 Read the passage on Stonehenge.

Stonehenge and the monuments in the surrounding area were named a World Heritage Site in 1986. The stone circle is surrounded by a ceremonial landscape made up of more than 300 burial mounds and other major prehistoric monuments.



Altogether, the site covers 2,600 hectares. Stonehenge was built in three phases. The first phase included the construction of a ditch and bank around a circle of wood. About 4,500 years ago, the site was rebuilt with the Bluestones that make up the smaller inner circle of stones seen today. Finally, the third phase of construction took place about 4,300 years ago. The Bluestones were dug up and rearranged, and this time even bigger stones, now called Sarsen, were brought in from 32 kilometers away. Each pair of stones was placed upright, and connecting stones (lintels) were placed on top of them. There is no agreement among experts as to how these stones were made to stand upright or how the lintels, the heaviest of which weighs about 45 tons, were placed on top of the Sarsen.

Exercise 2 Complete the summary of the above reading.

Built in ¹ *three* phases, Stonehenge took thousands of years to become what it is now. The original circle was made of ² _____ inside a large ³ _____ with a ⁴ _____. Then the wooden posts were replaced with ⁵ _____ around 2500 BCE. Two centuries later, these ⁶ _____ were moved to different places and even larger stones called ⁷ _____ were brought in to form the big circle with ⁸ _____ placed on top of the upright stones.

Exercise 1 Complete the sentences with *it* or *there*.

1. There isn't any sugar in the pantry.
2. _____ is time to leave for the movie.
3. I don't think _____ is any reason to stay here.
4. _____ is about 400 kilometers from here to Toronto.
5. This is crazy! _____ is July, and _____ is snowing!
6. _____ have been many attempts to climb Mount Everest.
7. _____ is important to eat fruits and vegetables every day.
8. Tell him that _____ is an advertisement for a job that would be great for him.

Exercise 2 Identify the sentences as Simple, Compound, Complex, or Compound-Complex.

1. Compound I ate my sushi, and I left the restaurant.
2. _____ The football game was canceled because of the rain.
3. _____ Call your mother as soon as you arrive in Singapore.
4. _____ The football game was canceled because it was raining.
5. _____ Unless my girlfriend postpones her visit from Calgary, I will not have time to study for my exam.
6. _____ If he changes his mind, we will know for sure that Tom has learned his lesson, but only time will tell.

Exercise 3

Identify the underlined phrases in the following sentences as prepositional (*Pr*), gerund (*G*), infinitive (*I*), or participial (*Pa*).

- _____ Mark doesn't like going to the dentist because he has sensitive teeth.
- _____ Introduced to music early, he could play the cello beautifully by age 8.
- _____ To finish her shift without spilling any more drinks is Sarah's dearest wish tonight.
- _____ I am thinking about limiting the number of times I go to the mall, so I don't spend so much money.

Further Learning

Fragments and Run-on Sentences

Two common mistakes in written English are **fragments** and **run-on sentences**.

A fragment is an incomplete sentence. It is often a dependent clause that is not attached to an independent clause.

- We must bring our textbooks with us every day *because we use them in lessons*. (O)
- We must bring our textbooks with us every day. *Because we use them in lessons*. (X)

A run-on sentence is two or more independent clauses that are not properly joined.

- Smart phones are useful. *They help people communicate*. (O)
- Smart phones are useful; *they help people communicate*. (O)
- Smart phones are useful *because they help people communicate*. (O)
- Smart phones are useful *they help people communicate*. (X)

Quick Check Rewrite the sentences correctly.

- Many people think it is difficult to fix a flat tire it is fairly simple.
→ _____
- Lisa's room remains untidy. Although her parents keep telling her to clean it.
→ _____
- I was impressed by the movie the plot was clever, the acting was great.
→ _____
- My sister eats a lot of fast food. Even though she knows it is unhealthy.
→ _____